

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
SEPTEMBER 29, 2015**

In attendance were Chairman Carl F. Kowalski; Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Member Brian J. Bezanson; Member Lisa M. Green; and Town Administrator Francis J. Lynam. Chairman Kowalski opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Kowalski asked everyone in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Kowalski announced the meeting is being recorded and televised by WHCA.

Chairman Kowalski called for a moment of silence.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve bill and payroll warrants. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept correspondence in the Read File. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Chairman Kowalski opened public forum and no one in attendance came forward to address the Board.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, August 18, 2015. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Police Chief Scott Benton to hold the 22nd Annual Cruisin' New England Spooktacular Cruise N' Classic Car Show at Memorial Field on Sunday, October 11, 2015, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Assistant Town Administrator Gregory Enos announced the town's application for a Brownfields site assessment grant has been approved by MassDevelopment. This will provide the funds needed to conduct the Phase II assessment of the former Regal Shoe/Whitman Cistern Site. The results of the assessment should determine the level of contamination and the cost of cleanup.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the Award Letter from Mass Development in connection with the Brownfields Site Assessment Grant for the former Regal Shoe/Whitman Cistern Site (Assessor's Parcel Number 7-75-1), 401 South Avenue; and to authorize the chairman to sign said letter. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

At 7:05 p.m. Chairman Kowalski opened a public hearing in connection with the application of Central Auto Service for a Wine and Malt Package Goods Store Liquor License on the premises located at 79 Temple Street. Chairman Kowalski advised the applicant that she must meet with the building commissioner in order to discuss signage, handicap access to the building, handicap parking and any other concern he may have with the premises. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the application of Central Auto Service for a Wine and Malt Package Goods Store Liquor License on the premises located at 79 Temple Street subject to the receipt of the license

fee; mailing and advertising fees; and upon compliance with the requirements of all appropriate Town boards/officials. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to re-assign a 2009 Chevy Tahoe from the Fire Department to the Building Department. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to declare a 2000 Ford Crown Victoria as surplus property. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Mr. Lynam advised that the Whitman Housing Authority is asking that the permit fees associated with replacing the roof at Harvard Court and upgrading the fire alarm panel at Stetson Terrace be waived, due to the fact that the permit fees were not included in quotes received from the bidders. Mr. Lynam noted the permit fee for the roof replacement would be \$2,720 and the permit fee for upgrade of the fire alarm panel would be \$2,370. He went on to say that the Board has agreed to waive permit fees in the past, but never for this amount. Mr. Lynam asked the Board to waive the permit fees for the projects for these two properties, which are owned by the Whitman Housing Authority, not the Town; and advised the Board of his intention to conduct further research in order to develop a policy for waiving fees. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of the Whitman Housing Authority to waive the permit fees in connection with upgrading the fire alarm panel at Stetson Terrace and the replacement of the roof at Harvard Court. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy and Plan. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

At 7:10 p.m. Chairman Kowalski opened a public meeting in connection with the application of Nellie Rose Restaurant LLC (Scott Gould), for a Common Victualler's License on the premises located at 555-557 Bedford Street. Mr. Gould advised that he has filed all appropriate applications required by the Board of Health. He is also working with the building commissioner and will address any concerns that he may have. He hopes to open for business on December 1, 2015. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the application of Nellie Rose Restaurant LLC (Scott Gould), for a Common Victualler's License on the premises located at 555-557 Bedford Street subject to the receipt of the license fee; proof of Workers' Compensation insurance; and final inspection/approval of the Board of Health, Building Commissioner and Fire Chief. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

In his monthly report to the Board, Chief Benton stated that there have been 9,163 calls since January 1, 2015, an increase of 1,812 calls at this same time last year. All Other Services has also seen an increase of over \$38,000 in expenditures since this same time last year, due to the union contract raise and an increase in officer training. This past month the department assisted with the Run for the Roses and the Conley Color 5K; the SWAT members continue to train; and the department will soon be undergoing low light training. Chief Benton finished by thanking the men and women of the department, as well as the members of the auxiliary.

In his monthly report, Chief Grenno stated that expenditures for All Other Services is up by one percent over last year due to vacation coverage. One firefighter is out due to a severe back

injury, one is out on extended family medical leave and another firefighter will soon be out on extended family medical leave. Since January 1, 2015, there have been 274 emergency runs, an increase of 187 at this same time last year. The station has been empty 234 times to date, as opposed to a total of 262 times last year. Chief Grenno advised of an early morning alarm at the Whitman Middle School, where firefighters discovered smoke filling the administration office and library due to an issue with a rooftop unit. The building was cleared of smoke and school began on time. Members are undergoing training for a change in coding; and fire training continues to take place with Lt. Cunningham inside the armory building. Chief Grenno stated he will be placing a new Jaws of Life on his list of capital needs, as well as on a grant list; and noted that all rooming houses, restaurants and auto repair shops have been inspected by Deputy Chief Feeney. Chief Grenno announced the department will be holding its Open House on October 12th between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Also, the safe trailer will be at the Conley and Duval schools the week of October 19th. Chief Grenno finished by thanking the members of his department.

Chairman Kowalski asked both chiefs, going forward, to provide him with a written summary of their reports.

The Board set their October meeting schedule for Tuesday, October 20, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

The Board set the date for the Classification hearing for Tuesday, November 10, 2015.

Mr. Lynam reminded the Board that last fiscal year the trash fee was lowered to \$225 per unit. Since then the trash hauler used by the town has filed for bankruptcy and contract negotiations are in progress with a new hauler. Mr. Lynam noted that discussions have taken place with two companies; however only one has responded. He went on to say that due to a significant increase in the cost, he is recommending the Board set the trash fee for FY2016 at \$250.00 per unit. Mr. Lynam does suspect that we may end up with a deficit and, if that is the case, it will be dealt with at the special Town Meeting within the annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Lynam advised that the new trash hauler uses an automated pick-up system which will require a barrel change at a cost of \$320,000 to \$350,000. Each household will receive two 64 gallon barrels, one for trash and one for recycling. Each barrel contains a serial number that will be assigned by household. Mr. Bezanson asked if those residents who own the pink Breast Cancer Awareness barrels will be able to continue to use them. Mr. Lynam advised that the subject is under discussion but it is not likely since the hauler won't be able to identify the barrels. Mr. Salvucci expressed his unhappiness and asked if residents will now be charged for large item pick-ups. Mr. Lynam answered yes, the hauler is seeking to charge \$20.00 per item; however, the hope is to negotiate the cost to \$10.00.

Following discussion, Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to set the trash rate for FY2016 at \$250.00 per unit. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Mrs. Green wished Adam Glynn, who was recently injured in an accident, a quick recovery.

Mrs. Green encouraged everyone to come out and attend the Cruisin' New England Spooktacular Car Show on October 11th. This a fun event for a great cause.

At 7:55 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** in accordance with the M.G.L., Chapter 30A, Section 21a, (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. Second Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mrs. Green – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes. So voted 4-0. The meeting will reconvene in Open Session for the purpose of adjourning the meeting.

At 8:05 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Scott J. Lambiase, Clerk